

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Office of Fire and Aviation**



Operations Alert

No. 05-03

August 4, 2005

Subject: Use of Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE)

Area of Concern: Appropriate attire for the ATGS, Fire Recon/Detection Mission and the use of shoulder harnesses.

Discussion:

Recent events have heightened awareness on how personnel are choosing to dress for the above mentioned missions; it is common to observe employees in casual dress (shorts and sandals). The Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations chapter 17 states that for fixed wing operations above 500 feet PPE is recommended. This is our current policy, which will be reviewed prior to the 2006 fire season.

In the interim it is strongly recommended that personnel performing these missions protect themselves from potential unnecessary injury by wearing leather shoes or boots and a flight suit or full length cotton or nomex trousers.

Recent events have also highlighted the positive effects of fully utilizing the shoulder harnesses which are required in the Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR), DM 351 1.1 G and the Aviation Life Support Equipment Handbook 4-4.2. Incidents and accidents, although rare, do occur. Please help yourselves be as prepared as possible.

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